

In June 25, the Prime Minister issued the instruction No. 010/PM on the development of poverty eradication programs. In particular, directives were given with regard to definition and indicators of poverty.

(1) Definition and indicators of Poverty

As reference for sectors and local authorities, the Government has adopted an initial definition and indicators of poverty (to be applied until further changes). Such indicators are average indicators to be used as reference in each province, district and village in surveying and assessing poverty at the household, village and district levels, for the purpose of planning gradual poverty eradication in their areas of responsibility.

Instruction No. 010/PM - extract

The definition of poverty:

Poverty is the lack of basic requirements in daily livelihood, such as the lack of food (less than 2,100 kilocalories per person and per day), clothing, permanent shelter, inability to afford necessary medical treatments, inability to afford one's own education and the education of other members of the family and the lack of easy access...primarily.

At the household level:

Households considered as poor are households with an income of less than KIP 85,000 equivalent in cash per person/month (Based on 2001 prices). This sum allows purchasing 16 kilograms of milled rice per person/month, but the balance is insufficient to cover other necessary expenses, such as clothing, shelter, children's schooling costs and medical treatment. Households living in such conditions are considered households who still live in poverty.

At village level

Villages considered as poor villages are:

- Villages where at least 51% of the total households are poor households
- Villages without school within the village or schools in nearby and accessible villages
- Villages without dispensaries, traditional medicinal practitioner or requiring over 6 hours of travel to reach a hospital
- Villages without safe water supply
- Villages without access road (at least trails accessible by car during the dry season)

At district level

- District where over 51% of the villages are poor
- District where over 40% of the villages do not have local or nearby schools
- District where over 40% of the villages do not have a dispensary or pharmacy
- District where over 60% of the villages without access road, which can be used by car
- District where over 40% of the villages do not have safe water

The measurement of poverty at provincial and national level is the compilation of poverty at district level and combined with poverty analysis based on the household consumption and expenditure survey performed by the National Statistic Centre.